

CHILDREN'S JUSTICE ACT (CJA) TASK FORCE
California Emergency Management Agency (Cal EMA)
Public Safety & Victim Services Programs Division

Thursday, March 4, 2010, 10:00 AM
Westin (Emerald Towers)
San Diego, CA 95814

Meeting Minutes

Members Present: Harry Elias (Chair), Cathy Stephenson (Co-Chair), Kathleen Cady, Leigh David Casey, Donald Cohen, Jeffrey Dent, Elizabeth De Rouen, Lee Ann Kelly, Annie Lynn, Carol O'Callaghan, Karl Porter, Richard Ruiz, Jay Smith, Susan Torrence, M. Tina Williams, and Wendy Wright

Members Absent: Troy Nunley, Barbara Yoshioka Wheeler, and Dale Wilson

Cal EMA Staff Present: Sally Hencken, Gillsa Miller, and Diana Mazuka

Guests: Connie Broussard Silva and Bill Hammond from California Institute on Human Services

I. CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS

Harry Elias, Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM. Greetings exchanged.

II. MINUTES OF DECEMBER 2, 2009

Reviewed and approved the minutes as submitted.

III. CALIFORNIA EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY (Cal EMA) ANNOUNCEMENTS-
Sally Hencken

- Ellie Jones, Public Safety and Victim Services Division Chief accepted a promotion with the State Department of Social Services.
- A recap of a teleconference with Catherine Luby, Sally Hencken and Diana Mazuka: The Children's Justice Act Application is due by May 28, 2010. Judge Harry Elias and Sally Hencken will be attending the mandatory Children's Justice Act Meeting in May 2010. The Out-of-State travel packet is currently being processed. The next CJA Three Year Report is due in 2011 and will cover FY 2008- 2010.

General Information:

- The Census and its importance as a critical tool for assessing the service needs and funding levels in California.
- The Victim of Crime Act (VOCA) cap has been raised, this positively impacts Cal EMA as there is a potential for additional funding.
- Cal EMA organizational chart is still in development and the Cal EMA business cards are on order.
- The limited term positions developed as a result of the VOCA and VAWA Recovery Stimulus Funding have been absorbed as permanent positions at Cal EMA, bringing Ricki Hammett to the Victim/Witness Section.

IV. 2008 CJA FUNDS – 2009 GRANT AWARDS

Program Status and Award Balances – Diana Mazuka

- Review of spreadsheet and the discussion on the spend down status on CJA funded Projects for the grant period of 01/01/09 -12/31/09. The projects funded during this period are currently in liquidation their final 30 day liquidation period runs until April 31, 2010. The 2008 funds will expire in September 30, 2010.
- EV 08 - Children Exposed to Domestic Violence Response Project – Fresno and National City have completed their first year, each receiving \$200,000 annually. Cal EMA's recommendation for the reverted funds is to reinvest this funding into the projects in their second year of funding in order to achieve project goals and objectives.

Discussion: Sally informed that a technical assist visit was conducted in to National City by Sally, Jay Smith, Leigh Bills, and Diana Mazuka. Jay Smith has been called out to assist in the development of their database as it was modeled after the one implemented in Stockton Community Services.

A letter will be drafted on agency letterhead by Cal EMA to be forwarded to CJA Task Force Chair Harry Elias, to be sent to The Stockton Police Chief, Jay Smith's Supervisor, to express appreciation for the assistance provided to Cal EMA as a representative of the CJA Task Force.

Discussion – As the CJA Task Force moves forward in funding new projects that the grants be structured to include an evaluation component. Possibly structuring them as pilot projects in the first year of funding and building in an on-site evaluation component within that period. Followed by the commitment of the project to provide mentorship to subsequent grant sub recipients in the second year or third of funding, if the project were chosen to be replicated. This would insure greater success in implementation. Also suggested, following the initial completion of the grant period getting the project to commit to the mentorship and/or providing a training component possibly funded by reverted funding or factored into the budget prior to funding.

MOTION:

When the CJA Task Force moves forward to replicate a Project in the Request for Proposal (RFP) indicate that the grant recipient will serve as a mentor to future recipient. This would then require that funding for these services be factored into the RFP.

- Catherine Stephenson/Wendy Wright

Discussion- It was suggested that as the CJA Task force is a spring board for new projects that members of the Task Force act as mentors for projects requiring technical assistance as they could share their level of expertise in their specific discipline. With that in mind, the concept of channeling unspent /reverted funds towards training of CJA Task force members.

- All CJA projects potentially reverting FY 2008 funds were discussed and the estimated total is upwards of \$130,000 excluding \$110,337 be directly reallocated to the EV projects respectively for spend down during the current funding cycle.

REVERTED & NON AWARDED FUNDS – Gillsa Miller

The Tribal Resource Specialist (TS) grants are managed in the Children's Section. Gillsa Miller, Chief provided background information on the status of the projects. The TS grants are in their final year of funding.

Currently under consideration is the recommendation for reverted funds to be awarded to the California Institute on Human Services, California Missing and Abducted Children (Cal MACI) Project, Connie Silva Broussard, Project Director.

Sally Hencken indicated that she would process the information and report back to the Task Force. Under consideration is the concept of putting 2008 reverted money into existing grants for FY 09 freeing up 2009 funds which have a longer life to explore the option of funding the Cal MACI Project and /or other Projects, lessening the urgency of fund expenditure.

Sally informed that the 2011 CJA Federal Budget is due May 28, 2010.

MINIMUM STANDARDS TRANSFER OF KNOWLEDGE (TOK) WORKSHOPS -MINIMUM STANDARDS PROTOCOLS

The information obtained through the survey questionnaire that was distributed and collected by the CJA Task Force Members was minimal. In order to further the search, Diana Mazuka sent an e-mail to all Victim/Witness Centers statewide and other Cal EMA contacts. A packet of all information received was provided to CJA Task Force Members.

Discussion:

- The CJA Task Force requested that Cal EMA initiate a second e-mail attempt to survey the field explaining in greater detail the request for information to solicit a response to the survey questionnaire and obtain and general descriptions of protocols.
- Create a statewide grid to highlight the counties in the state that identify themselves as having established protocols. The grid is to serve as a guide to indicate where training should focus.
- The CJA Minimum Standards Protocols and a template to be created and posted on the Cal EMA website.
- Development of a DVD or training video.
- Stipends to agencies requiring assistance.
- Revisit the idea of requiring all projects applying for CJA funding to establish Minimum Standards Protocols as a criteria of funding.
- Dissemination of information at Beyond the Bench Conference to establish a statewide List Serve to implement Minimum Standards Protocols.
- 2008 CJA funding allocated to the TOK effort is \$37,000 funding for this effort expires September 30, 2010.

At the conclusion of the discussion it was determined that the CJA TOK sub-committee would schedule a follow up meeting to formulate a strategy to move forward with the TOK s.

PROGRAM PRESENTATION

California Institute on Human Services - California Missing and Abducted Children's Initiative (Cal MACI), Connie Broussard Silva and Bill Hammond

Ms Broussard stated that Cal MACI was a Cal EMA funded project in FY 2006- 2007. Each session takes approximately three to six months to formulate and execute, as the session includes a self-assessment component, and onsite visits meetings with CEOs.

Ms Broussard also explained the Amber Alert response criteria a resulting from a Cal EMA grant in which 600 post certified Law Enforcement Officers had received training, which included the development of a three minute DVD. The funding was used to create brochures, training materials the development of web based training, the formulation of a participants guide, an instructor's guide. The initiative has conducted trainings in the following counties: Placer, Fresno, Merced, San Joaquin, Yuba and Sutter.

SCHEDULING OF FUTURE CJA TASK FORCE MEETINGS Date and Locations:

- June 10, 2010 – Sacramento , CA (moved to San Diego, CA)
- September 9, 2010 – San Diego, CA
- December 9, 2010 – Westminster, CA

MISCELLANEOUS Green vs. Canretta – Karl Porter

- A copy of the case law was provided to the CJA Task Force Members and lengthy dialogue ensued regarding its impact on child welfare cases in accessing children at schools as it limits law enforcement ability to be present only if child is in protective custody and if exigent circumstances exist.
- Agenda item for June Meeting: Project Recommendations and discussion of Three Year CJA Report development.

Meeting adjourned at 2:30 p.m.